

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.96
Adlase
req

SERVICE

NEWS

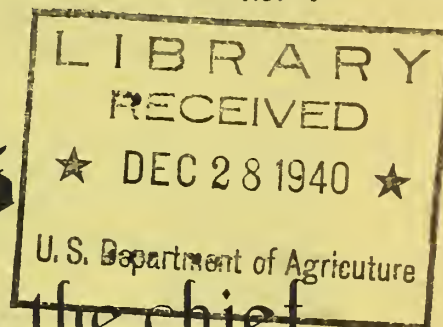
ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

December 21, 1940

No. 5

Yuletide Greetings

a message from the chief



Here's wishing you--every one of you in the Soil Conservation Service, and your families--a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To those who have been called into the military service, pledging their lives to the defense of our country, we especially extend our good wishes for the happiest holiday season. And for those who have left the Service because of circumstances not in our control, we keep in our hearts a brightly burning light of remembrance and good wishes.

Since the beginning, a fine esprit de corps has helped the Service to carry its work across the country and to lift it to the level of high achievement. In the success of that work, its approval by the people of the communities where it has been conducted, there is much to give us cheer. We may take pride in knowing that scientists from distant lands, having examined our conservation work, have returned to their homes to report favorably--even to write books--about the activities and good progress of the Soil Conservation Service in America. In some of these countries, even the name of our organization has been adopted by governmental

agencies newly created to do the same thing we are doing here under the Soil Conservation Act of 1935.

It should make the season pleasant to reflect that, through our efforts, real security has been given to 20 million acres of American cropland--the kind of security that will hold the goodness of the earth against the ravages of wind and rain, and make the land a continually safe abiding place for those who use it now and for those who will use it in the future.

If happiness comes from aiding our fellow-man, we have reason to be happy in the fact that what we are accomplishing on the land and through research, by your effort and competence, will forever benefit mankind not only in our own land but in other lands throughout the world.

And finally, as friendly good wishes pass between us this year, there is cause for gladness in the fact that here in our America, the greetings of this season still have meaning. In this sorely troubled world, we are at peace this Christmas time.

In the year ahead we must move forward, working always in the spirit of team effort we all know so well. The past year has been difficult--our facilities have been restricted at a time when we were under heavy obligation to the soil conservation districts set up in good faith, by farmers, for defense of soil. But the fires of our purpose are not less bright. Progress has continued--perhaps not the progress that we wanted, and were prepared to make, but progress none the less. I am certain that we shall find ways to keep advancing with all the speed we know to be so necessary.

The job ahead is large and difficult--in it there is challenge for us all. But we are strong, in purpose and in knowledge; we know how to work together. We'll handle it, all right.

Again, for all of you, we wish with all our hearts the very merriest Christmas and a happy and rewarding New Year.



LOWDERMILK SPEAKS TO CONSERVATION MEETINGS

Walter C. Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief, reports two interesting trips, -- one to Rockingham and Rockbridge Counties, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley on November 25 and 26, and another to New York City on December 5 and 6.

A new soil conservation district, outgrowth of the old demonstration project, is just getting under way in Rockingham County. Dr. Lowdermilk spent some time with Lyman Carrier and district conservationists while inspecting work of the old project. The Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District, including Rockbridge County, Virginia, reports ninety farms already under agreement, twenty applications accepted, and others coming in. The field men are enthusiastic about the work in these districts. Meetings at Harrisonburg and Lexington were well attended, in spite of the disagreeable weather.

Two interesting meetings were held in New York City. One meeting was sponsored by the Rural Christian Fellowship Organization, which includes representatives from all over the country, as well as some from foreign countries; the other assembly was sponsored by several departments of

Columbia University. Dr. Lowdermilk was urged by those in attendance at the Rural Christian Fellowship meeting to present the same lecture at theological seminaries throughout the United States. He was also requested to supplement his talk at Columbia University with one having to do with the status of the land in the United States after 300 years of occupation.

RUBBER NURSERIES SET UP

Seven rubber nurseries have been set up thus far in Central and South American countries to develop specimens gathered by the BPI field parties. The four groups of experts, sent out from Washington last summer, have visited Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Bolivia and Brazil. A fifth party is collecting specimens in the Philippine Islands.

SCS is represented by C. B. Manifold who is a member of the field party now visiting Nicaragua.

- O -

Longfellow L. Lough, West Virginia State Coordinator, attended the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau at Baltimore, Maryland, from December 8 to 13.

PAGE COUNTY SCHOOLS IN ESSAY CONTEST ON SOIL CONSERVATION

Rural grade school children in Page County, Iowa, will compete in writing essays on soil conservation for the third consecutive year. The county contest is sponsored by Kiwanis Clubs in Clarinda and Shenandoah in cooperation with the county superintendent of schools, the Page County Soil Improvement Association, the Page County Farm Bureau, and the Soil Conservation Service.

In announcing the contest, Don Griswold, Sr., county agent, urged all rural schools to study soil conservation and to have the children climax their study by writing essays for the contest. All students in rural grade schools are eligible and may write on any phase of soil conservation.

Winners will be announced at rural eighth grade graduation exercises next June. The two Kiwanis Clubs give awards to township winners and prizes of \$5.00, \$3.00, and \$2.00 to the county winners.

Last year, Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted Miss Mabel Searl, county superintendent of schools, and County Agent Griswold in conducting a course in soil conservation for rural schools. The course consisted of a series of meetings for teachers and children in each township with special illustrative material and discussion. Leo Stehly, superintendent of the CCC camp formerly located at Clarinda, started the program, and J. Emery Veatch, maintenance technician in the Clarinda camp area conducted most of the meetings.

- O -

Dr. A. E. Brandt, Chief of the Conservation Experiment Station Division, has been invited to appear on the program of the American Statistical Association meetings in Chicago, December 30 to January 2. Dr. Brandt will read a paper on "The Relation Between the Design of an Experiment and the Analysis of Variance."

SCS COOPERATES WITH AAA IN ALABAMA KUDZU PLANTINGS

Anticipating a tremendous increase in the demand for kudzu planting stock in connection with the special AAA program for Alabama, representatives of four agencies met in Washington recently to discuss possibilities of meeting requirements in 1941 by distribution of kudzu crowns.

The three-day meeting, called by the AAA, was attended by Thomas L. Ayers and Ernest L. Deal of the Southern Division of AAA, R. Y. Bailey, C. R. Enlow, and Harry A. Gunning of the SCS, Roland McKee, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and E. D. Alexander, extension agronomist for Georgia.

Plans were made for determining in Alabama and adjoining states the acreage of established kudzu from which owners might be willing to sell crowns and for holding a series of special meetings or schools in counties where large quantities of crowns might be available.

At these schools, prospective sellers will be shown the type of crowns that will be acceptable and the type that will be unacceptable, and will be given information about digging, grading, and storing crowns. Representatives of the Soil Conservation Service will assist in conducting these schools.

In addition to the special program for Alabama, broad plans were worked out for the use of kudzu in meeting requirements for perennial hay crops in the 1941 AAA program in the Southeast and tentative plans were also discussed for cooperation between the AAA and the SCS in the production of kudzu seedlings.

The AAA expects to obtain a considerable quantity of kudzu seed and tentative plans are being developed for planting this seed in SCS nurseries to produce plants for the AAA.

ILLINOIS CCC CAMP WINS 3-YEAR SAFETY RECORD

The soil conservation camp at Stockton, Ill., is the first CCC camp to report a record of three successive years without a single lost-time accident and has received the commendation of Chief H. H. Bennett and J. J. McEntee, CCC Director.

"Since this is the first three year record which has come to my attention, it is with particular pleasure that I request that you extend to the enrollees, the Army personnel, and your staff not only the congratulation of the Service on this outstanding record but that you add to this recognition by the Service my own personal appreciation of the effective planning and sustained effort which has brought about this result," Dr. Bennett wrote Superintendent Joel R. Bogue.

"It is only through real leadership and full cooperation on the part of everyone in the camp in developing and carrying out a sound safety program that it is possible to eliminate lost-time accidents over such a period of time. The Service is proud of its part in reducing accidents and with the proof now before us that a three-year objective can be reached we should be able to still further better our record.

"I look forward confidently to a continuation of the fine work being done by Camp SCS-7."

As the result of the emphasis which has been given the safety program, the record for soil conservation camps has been lowered from 40.16 lost-time accidents per 1,000,000 man hours worked in 1935 to 10.56 during the current year.

- O -

Morrill M. Tozier, formerly of the Washington staff of the Information Division, is now an interpretive writer in the Land Policy and Credit Division of the Office of Land Use Coordination.

SOUTH CAROLINA SUPERVISORS ORGANIZE STATE ASSOCIATION

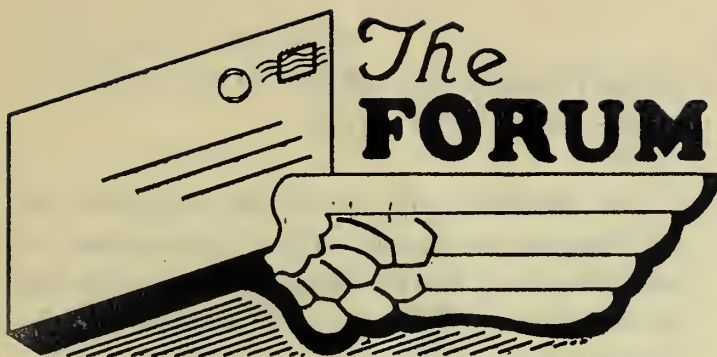
Closer coordination of activities in the various soil conservation districts in South Carolina is forecast by E. C. McArthur, of Gaffney, S. C., who was elected president of the South Carolina Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors, at the organization meeting of the association held at Clemson, S. C., November 26.

In addition to Mr. McArthur, who is a member of the board of supervisors of the Broad River soil conservation district in South Carolina, other officers of the association are Tom Trawick, of Cope, S. C., Edisto district, vice president, and Clifford Smith, of Newberry, Lower Saluda district, secretary-treasurer.

The purpose of the new organization, Mr. McArthur explains, is to develop a unified program of soil conservation activities throughout the State, to serve as a clearing house for district problems in all the districts in the state, and to enable individual districts to profit by the experience of others.

"The Secretary of Agriculture has emphasized the fact that the Department of Agriculture wants to do everything possible through its various agencies to assist farmers in soil conservation districts to improve the conditions of agriculture," Mr. McArthur points out. "The Secretary has also stressed the fact that carrying out the district program is the responsibility of the supervisors.

"We feel that by creating a definite organization representing supervisors of all soil conservation districts in the State that we will be in a better position to work out arrangements for cooperation with departmental, state, and local agencies, and at the same time will be able better to work out problems of the individual districts."



EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: I don't usually write to editors, but FMJ's letter in the October 5, 1940 issue of the Service News has created an urge to reply which, if not indulged, might result in as bad a case of "frustration" as has apparently affected him.

FMJ has revealed lack of the stabilizing influence of discipline. He agrees that he is willing to do anything for dear old SCS, but he wants to do it at his leisure and in his own sweet way. He apparently resents the "orders and regulations". He apparently has not realized the necessity of the increased formality necessary to handle a large organization. The small group of workers on the project may handle their jobs informally but in the larger organization, rules and regulations must be written and formally accepted to provide liberty for all.

FMJ should do the job assigned to him and not worry because some other individual may have an easier time of it. We are all looking for an occupation which would permit us to spend our leisure time home in the evenings, which would not entail worry or strain during off the job time. As responsibilities are added to our jobs, however, the more nearly we become 24-hour a day employees. As a professional man, FMJ should accept these responsibilities. He should consider himself fortunate in having a salary well above that of the

average of his camp and a position which is a springboard for still higher salaries and he should be in the lead both in spirit and in action in fulfilling the intangible obligations of his job. I wonder if FMJ has ever considered how his position looks to the non-professional foreman who works just as hard and at a much lower salary.

Another thing, perhaps FMJ has not fully considered the importance of his influence upon the enrollees in the camp. He is in a position to become their hero. The young enrollee will unconsciously mimic his actions and respond to his philosophy of life. I doubt very much if he is able to totally conceal his dislike for the inconvenience of after-hour instruction and his efforts to lead and guide them will undoubtedly suffer.

If FMJ is required to do unusual and unreasonable amounts of work during his so-called leisure time a complaint based on those reasons would undoubtedly receive sympathetic consideration by his superiors. However, the plaintive wail that he doesn't want to do something because he has been told that it is a regulation, or that the job is obnoxious because some other employee is not required to put forth the same type of additional effort, is reminiscent of grammar school days and merits little consideration.

V.E.A.

- O -

(Editor's Note: We acknowledge, with thanks, the letter from Mr. A.D.H. to the Open Forum. We are not printing the letter because of the fact that it pertains to activities and administrative responsibilities which are outside of the scope of the Service.)

DISTRICT FARMERS PLANT KUDZU FOR LOCAL USE

When the farmers of the Piedmont Soil Conservation District in Alabama found during the past planting season that there were not enough kudzu seedlings available to plant the land which they desired to devote to this crop, they decided to do something about the situation.

The farmers have planted a total of 360 pounds of kudzu seed with the idea of producing seedlings which will be used by the growers and their neighbors in the establishment of kudzu meadows, waterways, and the retirement of severely eroded lands to this soil conserving plant. It is estimated that, if the season is reasonably favorable, there will be produced on farms within the district a total of about one million seedlings for use next year.

The vigor with which the farmers have attacked their problem of securing sufficient kudzu seedlings for the district is indicative of their attitude and interest not only in having conservation plans prepared for their farms but also in carrying out the practices necessary for a complete conservation program.

STATION REPORTS ON CROP YIELD

G. A. Horner, Project Supervisor of the Pullman, Washington, Soil Conservation Experiment Station, reports that samples for crop yields have been threshed and the yields determined on the various experimental areas. The results showed a significant comparison of the yield of winter wheat grown after summer fallow and after a sweet clover green manure crop.

The average yield of two fallow wheat plots was 19.3 bushels per acre compared to 31.9 bushels per acre on the plot which had a 3.6 ton crop of sweet clover in 1939, and to 52.7 bushels per acre on a plot which had a 13.9 ton crop of sweet clover in 1939.

REGIONS REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY CHEST DRIVE

One hundred percent of the employees at the Spokane regional office subscribed to the Community Chest campaign this year and exceeded their quota by 21.4 percent, according to information received from Regional Conservator J. H. Christ.

Mr. Christ states that a great deal of credit goes to John F. Bohler, Chief of the regional Service Operations Division. It was through his efforts and the cooperation of his coworkers that the percentage of employees subscribing was raised from 79 percent in 1940 to 100 percent in the 1941 drive.

The Fort Worth Regional office went over the top in its Community Chest campaign when 87 percent of the employees pledged \$1502.15. The quota set for the Service was \$1473. James M. Reynolds, Chief of the regional Personnel Management Division, served as chairman of the committee directing the campaign.

The Albuquerque regional office pledged 65 percent of its Community Chest quota through subscriptions from 50 percent of its employees. More than half of these pledges were paid during the campaign week. Looking toward a more successful campaign next year, Region 8 suggests that other regions report on any ideas which were employed successfully in obtaining a high degree of contribution. SERVICE NEWS will be glad to publicize such reports.

- O -

Stanley S. Locke, Regional Forester of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; A. C. McIntyre, Regional Forester of Upper Darby, Pa.; J. A. Gibbs, Regional Forester of Dayton, Ohio; Carl F. Bohleber, Area Forester of Rome, Ga.; L. T. Small, Associate Forester, and A. N. Hodgson, Area Conservationist, of Charlottesville, Va., attended the meeting of the Society of American Foresters, held in Washington, D. C., December 18 to 21.

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO REGION 7

In line with plans for decentralization of certain authority in connection with personnel actions of the lower classifications, necessary changes in procedure were installed in Region 7 during the first week in December. Miss Verna C. Mohagen, Head of the Employment Section, went to Lincoln to assist in setting up the new procedure.

According to the new plan, the Regional Conservator, the Assistant Regional Conservator in Charge of Administration, and the Chief of the Regional Personnel Management Division of Region 7 have been officially designated as Field Employment Officers. This designation carries with it the authority to approve in the field specific types of personnel actions--such as appointments, promotions, transfers, and furloughs without pay up to 90 days--involving Civil Service personnel occupying approved positions in grades CAF-1 to CAF-6, SP-1 to SP-7, and CU-1 to CU-8, all inclusive.

For the types of personnel actions within the scope of the new field authority, official notifications will be issued by the Field Employment Officer, and copies of the notifications, rather than the original recommendation, will be routed to the Washington Office for recording and post-audit.

The delegated authority does not extend to certain types of suspensions and leave without pay, termination for cause, furlough without pay beyond 90 days for reduction in force, reinstatements, transfers from other departments, and demotions in either grade or salary. Non-Civil Service employees on LU and CCC rolls are not affected by this delegation of authority.

It is planned to initiate similar procedure in all the other regions as classification surveys and other arrangements preliminary to decentralization are completed.

ENTIRE SCS AREA NOW IN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

With the recent addition of McCormick County to the Savannah soil conservation district, every county in Area 1, South Carolina, is now in a district. Area 1 embraces 14 counties in the western part of the state.

McCormick County has 246,000 acres which brings the total area in districts in Area 1 to 4,945,320 acres. The Service is cooperating with every district in the area, authority for SCS assistance to McCormick County of the Savannah district having been granted on November 16. Area 1 of South Carolina is the first in the Southeastern Region, and possibly in the Nation, in which cooperation by the Service has been extended to districts that comprise all the farm land in the area.

- O -

Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite, Chief of the Climatic and Physiographic Division, has been loaned to the Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Commerce, where he will serve as Assistant Chief for a period of three months dating from December 1. During his absence, Dr. Otto Guthe will act as chief of the division.

- O -

Ernest H. Reed, Head of the Farm Management Section, and his family were featured in a page spread of the Washington Post Rotogravure Section on Sunday, December 8. The Post is running a series of picture stories introducing representative Washington families.

- O -

C. Svendby, Chief of the regional Forestry Division at Spokane, Washington, attended the Western Forestry and Conservation Association meeting at Portland, Oregon, on December 12 to 14, and read a paper on "The Farm Forestry Program."

PRINTERS' INK

H. H. Bennett has written on "Soil Conservation Districts - A Defense Tool" for the November issue of the *Extension Service Review*. "The farm programs of the last 8 years have placed American agriculture in a position to meet almost any situation that might arise," says Dr. Bennett.

The *Vermont Farm Bureau News*, December, features two illustrated articles about soil conservation methods in that State. One article tells of progress made in controlling streambank erosion in the Winooski River watershed, and the other humorously explains how farmer Gordon Wright overcame the difficulties in educating his oxen to plow on the contour.

Happy Days has reprinted in its December 7 issue H. D. Abbot's article on "National Defense and the CCC" which first appeared in the November issue of *SOIL CONSERVATION*.

B. W. Allred, Chief of the Division of Range Conservation in Region 7, has written an article which has been approved for publication in a future issue of *Journal of Ecology*.

Successful Farming has accepted for future publication a story written by Kenneth S. Davis and entitled "For the Land's Sake!"

- O -

The following Project monographs have been received in the Service Library, and are available for loan:

Region 4:

- Texas-2 Duck Creek, Lindale, Tex.
- Texas-7 Carrisso Creek, Nacogdoches, Tex.
- Texas-9 Harts Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Tex.

Region 5:

- Iowa-3 Indian Creek, Marion, Iowa.

Region 6:

- New Mexico-4 Mansker, Clayton, N. Mex.

BULLETINS IN PAGE PROOF

"Soils and Security" by H.H. Bennett. Un-numbered Publication.

"Soil Losses from Cultivated Strips in Strip-cropped Fields in the Ohio Valley Region" by R.W. Gerdell. Circular No. 588.

FIELD MEMORANDA

Nov. 15 - Dec. 12

- 964 Vehicles, Use of SCS, for Hauling Postal Matter during Christmas Season. (Service will offer vehicular facilities to postal service in accordance with request from Acting Postmaster General.)
- 965 Thanksgiving holiday
- 965-A Amendment to Thanksgiving holiday notice.
- 966 Personnel Information Sheet, Form 3464a. (Form 3464a replaces Personnel Questionnaire, AD-125 and Form No. 6 on all appointments subsequent to June 15, 1940. This memorandum cancels Field Memorandum No. 770.)
- 967 Suggestions concerning Soil Conservation District Semi-Annual Reports for the period ending December 31, 1940, and Work Record Form SCS-195.
- 968 Transfer of Mr. Shane MacCarthy to National Defense Council.
- 969 Liability Insurance on Motor Vehicles (Information regarding group liability insurance available for all SCS employees who drive Government-owned automobiles. (This memorandum cancels Field Memorandums Nos. 256 and 517.)
- 970 Loan of Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite to the Weather Bureau.